

Board of Education Agenda Item

Item: _____ G. _____

Date: _____ February 23, 2005 _____

Topic: _____ Report on K-12 Legislation Considered by the 2005 General Assembly _____

Presenter: _____ Ms. Anne Wescott, Assistant Superintendent for Policy and Communications _____

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Origin:

☒ Topic presented for information only (no board action required)

☐ Board review required by

☐ State or federal law or regulation

☐ Board of Education regulation

☐ Other: _____

☐ Action requested at this meeting ☐ Action requested at future meeting: _____

(date)

Previous Review/Action:

☒ No previous board review/action

☐ Previous review/action

date _____

action _____

Background Information:

The Department of Education is tracking about 150 bills and resolutions that affect K-12 education, and that were introduced in the 2005 Session of the General Assembly. At crossover, approximately half of those bills and resolutions were still viable. The Session is scheduled to end on February 26. The veto session is scheduled for April 16.

Summary of Major Elements:

The following bills (as of February 14, 2005) would either require action by the Board of Education, or would be of interest to the Board:

Standards of Quality and Standards of Accreditation

- HB 1762 (Dillard) and SB 779 (Potts) are the bills containing the Board's recommended revisions to the Standards of Quality.

- SB 1045 (Wagner) would codify the provision that industry certifications, state licensure examinations, and national occupational competency assessments approved by the Board of Education may be substitute tests for which students may earn verified units of credit.
- SJR 403 (Wagner) would request the Board to examine the suitability of additional industry testing programs that could be used as substitute tests for students to earn verified units of credit for graduation, and determine how to increase the emphasis on career and technical education as it reviews and revises the Standards of Accreditation.

No Child Left Behind Act

- HB 2602 (Landes) would require the Board to examine the fiscal and other implications for the Commonwealth and local governments should Virginia withdraw from participation in the federal No Child Left Behind Act.
- SB 1136 (Hanger) would require the Board to seek certain waivers to the No Child Left Behind Act in areas in which the Commonwealth is already substantially in compliance with the spirit and intent of the federal act.

Students

- HB 1573 (Albo) would require the model Student Conduct Guidelines to address policies that would prohibit or reduce incidents of gang activity and similar illegal behavior.
- HB 1912 (Cole) would require the Board, in its Pledge of Allegiance guidelines, to include provisions addressing parental notification for minor students who decline to stand or to recite the Pledge.
- HB 2266 (Bell) and HB 2879 (Marshall) would require the model Student Conduct Guidelines to address bullying, and would require the reporting of bullying to law enforcement by the local school divisions. Parents would be advised that they could contact local law enforcement for further information.
- SB 717 (Edwards) would specify that character education programs may include opportunities for voluntary participation in community service activities pursuant to guidelines developed by the Board of Education.
- SB 880 (Obenshain) would incorporate the concept of chronic tardiness into the compulsory school attendance law. It would require the Board of Education to promulgate regulations defining "chronically tardy" to identify those children who are in violation of compulsory school attendance by reason of being habitually and without justification absent from school for a significant portion of the day because of routine and substantial late arrival to school.

Teachers and Administrators

- HB 2790 (Frederick) would codify the provision that persons seeking initial licensure as teachers through an alternative route could substitute work experience for required coursework.
- HB 2832 (Marshall) would provide that a student who is a member of a school athletic team and who uses anabolic steroids, unless prescribed by a licensed physician for a medical condition, is ineligible to compete in interscholastic athletic competition for two years. It would require the Board to suspend or revoke the license issued to any person who knowingly and willfully with the intent to compromise the outcome of an athletic competition procures, sells, or administers anabolic steroids or causes such drugs to be procured, sold, or administered to a student who is a member of a school athletic team, or fails to report the use of such drugs by a student to the school.

- SB 979 (Potts) would allow for licensure by reciprocity for individuals with a valid out-of-state license. No professional teacher's assessment or service requirements would be required. The bill would also allow individuals who have completed a state-approved teacher preparation program from a regionally accredited four-year college or university outside the Commonwealth to be eligible for licensure through reciprocity.
- SB 1285 (Whipple) would establish a goal of the Commonwealth that the average salary for Virginia public school teachers equal or surpass the national average salary for public school teachers. The bill would also require teachers under continuing contract status to be evaluated every three years.
- SJR 428 (Watkins) would request the Board to include the mathematics specialist endorsement in the Licensure Regulations for School Personnel.

Other Board Matters:

- HB 1769 (Dillard) would create a 23-member Commission on Civics Education, comprised of the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, legislators, executive branch officials, and citizens, and staffed by the Department of Education. The commission would (i) identify civic education projects in the Commonwealth and provide technical assistance, (ii) build a network of civic education professionals to share information and strengthen partnerships, and (iii) make recommendations to the Board of Education regarding revisions to the Standards of Learning for civics and government.
- SB 711 (Houck) and SB 1196 (Newman) would amend the Freedom of Information Act to reduce the notice required for electronic communication meetings from 30 days to seven working days; eliminate the 25 percent limitation on the number of electronic meetings held annually; and allow for the conduct of closed meetings during electronic meetings.
- SB 770 (Bell) would institute annual salaries of \$6,000 for members of the Board of Education and \$9,000 for the Board president, effective July 1, 2006.

Superintendent's Recommendation: N/A

Impact on Resources: N/A

Timetable for Further Review/Action: Those bills and resolutions that require action by the Board of Education will be brought to the Board later this year.